

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald Marshall on 10/21/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 16 (currently amended): A method of planning a path through a network, comprising:

receiving a request for a path through a network of structure groups between a source node and a sink node;

determining virtual circuit information for each structure group in said network;

determining a spare circuit value for each structure group using said virtual circuit information, wherein said spare circuit value represents the number of potential connections through a structure group ~~that may be made~~ between the source node and the sink node without changing channels; and

determining a path through said network using said virtual circuit information and said spare circuit value, wherein the virtual circuit information includes the number of paths using a common channel through said structure group between any pair of nodes, and wherein a slot-edge matrix is maintained

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for each data structure, and wherein the availability of a channel is determined based on said slot-edge matrix.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 16-25 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art of record does not disclose, in single or in combination, a spare circuit value represents the number of potential connections through a structure group between the source node and the sink node without changing channels and a slot-edge matrix is maintained for each data structure, and wherein the availability of a channel is determined based on said slot-edge matrix in combination with the other limitations of the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MELANIE JAGANNATHAN whose telephone number is (571)272-3163. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel can be reached on 571-272-2988. The fax

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phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Melanie Jagannathan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2419
October 22, 2008